

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/880,824

Examiner

Igor N. Borissov

Applicant(s)

UMEMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of 11/02/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-35.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on *** has been entered.

Applicant's arguments filed 04/02/2007 with respect to claim 20 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

20. (previously presented) A ticket examiner for examining a ticket, comprising:
a ticket slot into which the ticket is entered;
a pickup port for ejecting the ticket;
a controller;
a first antenna covering a long distance service area;

a second antenna covering a nearby service area; and
a communication module ~~which~~ configured to send[[s]] a call to a medium of a user, ~~the communication module~~ and stop[[ping]] calling to the user medium in response to entry of the ticket into the ticket slot,

wherein ~~said~~ the controller, in response to detection of the user medium by receiving a response to said call at the communication module through the first antenna, receives information of the ticket from the user medium through ~~said~~ the first antenna and ~~said~~ the communication module, requests authentication of the ticket information to a center apparatus, generates printing data based on the ticket information in response to a result of the reference that the ticket is valid, and stores the printing data in the controller, and

wherein the controller, in response to detection of the user medium by receiving at ~~said~~ the communication module the response to the call through the second antenna, prints the printing data stored on the controller on a slip using a printer to transport the printed slip to the pickup port.

21. (previously presented) A ticket examiner according to claim 20, further comprising:

a sensor which is different from said first antenna and ~~said~~ the second antenna, wherein the communication module starts detection of the user medium through the second antenna in response to an event that the sensor has sensed the user.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-35 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per independent claim 20, the best prior art the combination of Miyashita in view of Sehr teaches an automatic ticket-examining apparatus, comprising: a ticket slot into which the ticket is entered; a pickup port for ejecting the ticket; a controller; a first antenna covering a long distance service area (proximity sensor 94); a second antenna covering a nearby service area (radio antenna 98 disposed in the antenna section 91); and a communication module which sends a call to a medium of a user (communication means 91 provided on a surface of said ticket examining apparatus and based on non-contact electromagnetic contact scheme with a user's medium), wherein said controller, in response to detection of the user medium by the communication module through the first antenna (receiving a response to said call) receives information of the ticket from the user medium (the use of the controller indicates storing data) thereby indicating stopping calling to the user medium in response to communication with the medium.

However, while Miyashita in view of Sehr teach requesting authentication of the ticket information and generating printing data based on the ticket information in response to a result of the reference that the ticket is valid, fails to teach or fairly suggest that said examining apparatus includes a long-distance antenna covering a long-distance service area, and that said ticket-examining apparatus is configured to conduct preparation of printing of said ticket in response to detection of the user medium by receiving a response to a call to the user medium through said long-distance antenna.

Matsumoto (US 5,414,249) teaches an automatic ticket-examining apparatus comprising an antenna 11 having two communication area, a first, short range communication area A and second, long range communication area B, wherein the long range communication area B is employed for communicating data to a wireless card C carried by a customer (Fig. 5; C. 5, L. 6-15, 56-64). While Matsumoto teaches communicating data via the antenna 11 over long range communication area B, modifying Matsumoto to include: receiving a response to a call to the user medium through said long-distance antenna would make Matsumoto's system inoperative for its original purposes.

The best foreign art, Ueda et al. (EP 0 789 331 A1), while teaching a system for issuing and utilizing a ticket with which a passenger, using an IC card, can purchase a ticket and pass through a ticket gate utilizing wireless technique, the system including a non-contact terminal and an antenna, fails to teach or fairly suggest that said non-contact terminal is configured to conduct preparation of printing of said ticket in response to detection of the user medium by receiving a response to a call to the user medium through a long-distance antenna.

The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claims.

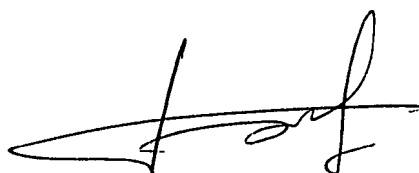
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IB
11/13/2007



IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER